Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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NO. 42 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1995

State Library Notes

Nancy Silliman, [director of Kohrs Memorial Library in Deer Lodge] and her husband Lee have donated the recent tax refund they received to the State Library! We thank them both for their thoughtful gesture.

Robert Cooper, LSCA Specialist at the State Library, has announced that he will resign, effective December 15th. He has been chosen as Executive Director of Montana Youth Homes in Helena. The work he has done to help us improve the LSCA process is obvious to all who have worked with us. We will miss the skills and abilities he brought to the job.

Long Range Program to be Drafted: State Librarian Richard Miller will be drafting a Long Range Program for Libraries during the next month which will be reviewed and commented upon by certain members of the library community and the public. It will incorporate ideas from a number of documents and studies already completed and from the statewide technology plan due to be completed in January 1996. The intention is to present a final draft of the document to the State Library Commission during January 1996 for consideration and action at its February 1996 meeting. Those who will be reviewing to the draft are being contacted now.

NRIS 10th Anniversary Celebration: On Thursday, November 2, the Natural Resource Information System [NRIS] celebrated its Tenth Anniversary with an open house, presentations, and speeches from supporters. Established in 1985 by the Montana Legislature, NRIS was designed to simplify the task of identifying and acquiring natural resource information. It evolved into a nationally-recognized information clearinghouse that is being used as a model by other states.

NRIS currently comprises three units. The Water Information System offers knowledge about water quality, groundwater, surface water, water rights, and climate data. The Montana Natural Heritage Program focuses on plants, animals and natural communities, emphasizing those that are rare, threatened or endangered. The Geographic Information System provides map data and technical assistance for users of computerized mapping programs. These programs have been a nucleus for interagency and private sector collaboration and information sharing, saving much time and effort in development, planning and resource management.

Presentations during the open house included sessions on Montana's Groundwater Atlas and our rare plants and animals. In addition there was an "Internet Scavenger Hunt" [successful hunters received commemorative coffee mugs designed by staff] and GIS demos, tours and displays.

Speakers at the celebration included Dorothy Bradley [Director, Montana Water Resources Research Center], Rorie Hanrahan [Press Secretary for Governor Racicot], Dave Brown [former Legislator from Butte], Brian Kahn [Director, Montana Nature Conservancy], David Genter [Heritage Program Director], Allan Cox [NRIS Director] and Richard Miller who also emceed the event. Larry Thompson, first NRIS director who passed away in February 1988, was honored. Other NRIS supporters honored were Sara Parker, former State Librarian and Jon Sesso, former NRIS Director.

COSLA and Western Council: Darlene Staffeldt attended a meeting of the Western Council of State Libraries in Hawaii November 18-21. We will report on this conference later. Richard Miller attended the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies meeting in Harrisburg, PA, October 21-24. This group heard from Andrew Magpantay, newly appointed director of ALA's Washington Office for Information Technology Policy, and reports from three state librarians on what is happening on statewide Internet and telecommunications networks. Speakers included: Ray Ewick on the Access Indiana Information Network; Sharman Smith on SILO, the State of Iowa Libraries On-Line; and Jim Scheppke on Oregon's Frame Relay Network.

Both Western Council and COSLA offer opportunities for state library agency administrative staff to share and learn with their counterparts from around the nation.

Executive Director and Chair of Humanities Visits Library: Jamie Doggett, Chair of the Montana Committee for the Humanities, and Mark Sherouse, newly appointed Executive Director of the

Committee, visited Richard Miller on Friday, November 17th. Among the topics discussed were: possible collaboration between the Committee and the State Library and libraries in general; Internet and its possible uses; and the potential of funding projects of the Montana Center for the Book.

Advisory Council Meets:

Chaired by Andrine Haas, the Library Services Advisory Council met in Helena November 16 and 17. The Council took the following actions:

- Approved the FY95 LSCA Annual Report
- Approved FY96 LSCA Non-Construction Grant Recommendations
- Approved the FY98 LSCA Priorities

The Council will next recommend these actions to the State Library Commission at its December 6th meeting. The Council also heard reports from the following committees: Long Range Planning; Contingency Planning; Evaluation and Public Input. Bylaws and Nominations Committees were also appointed. Current members of the Council include: Kathleen Bartlett, Nora Verpoorten, Mary Bushing, Brett Allen, Andrine Haas, Deborah Schlesinger, Mary Lou Heppner, Ray Peck, Margaret Kernan, Wes Plann, Carolyn Salansky, and Susan Callaghan. Brett Allen attended his last meeting; because he has recently been appointed director of the St. Ignatius Public Library he no longer is in the category of a "user" of library services. The Tamarack Federation area will be making a recommendation for a replacement for Brett. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Friday, January 26, 1996.

Public Library News

Funding Teton County Public Libraries: State Library Commission Vice-Chair Peggy Guthrie and Richard Miller attended a meeting with all three Teton County Commissioners to discuss the prospect of sizeable cuts in county funding to Choteau, Fairfield and Dutton Public Libraries. A large number of library supporters turned out for the meeting at which an alternative scenario was discussed rather than the drastic cuts proposed. (County funding represents about 70% of total funding for two of these libraries.) Library supporters and the State Library are continuing to work to try to turn this situation around.

Trustee Training: Thursday, November 30, Darlene Staffeldt and Richard Miller will offer training for the trustees of Madison Valley, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Thompson-Hickman County and West Yellowstone Public Libraries. Darlene Staffeldt's and Richard Miller's presentation will last approximately seven hours and will cover the range of responsibilities and powers of these public officials. The meeting place is Twin Bridges.

The Hearst Free Library in Anaconda is selling some beautifully silk-screened canvas bags as a fund raiser. The wine and cream tote bags portray the facade of Anaconda's historic library. Contact: Deni Corrigan, Director, 406-563-6932.

[If any other library wants to let the library world know about a similar fund raiser, we are willing to put it in the Update. We do not accept any commercial advertising.]

From Bozeman Public Library - New Kid's Catalog:

A new child-oriented catalog using pictures instead of text has been installed in the children's library this month. Called "Kid's Catalog," it was designed by a children's librarian in response to common problems kids have using an automated catalog.

Younger children especially have a difficult time with spelling, spacing, and the difference between author, title and subject searches. With this in mind, librarians have created "Kid's Catalog" which allows kids to choose pictures and search for information using broad subject areas. An on-screen map of the children's library will blink to show kids where the book is located on the shelf.

Other Montana News

Judy Meadows, State Law librarian, has announced that her name has been placed in nomination for the office of President-Elect of the American Association of Law Librarians.

MLA Marketing and Public Relations Committee Chaired by Schulz:

Commissioner Mike Schulz is chairing an MLA committee which will be making recommendations to the full MLA Board on that organization's future directions in marketing and public relations. Members of the committee include: Norma Clock, Lee Kuhr, Dee Ann Redman, Richard Miller, and Diane VanGorden. Recommendations, which will be made by Schulz to the MLA December Board meeting, will likely address a statewide marketing plan, initiation of a clearinghouse, forming coalitions with other organizations, expanding beyond National Library Week, and a slogan for MLA.

Abe Abramson Named to NCLIS:

A former State Library Commissioner, Abramson has been named by President Clinton to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. He will attend his first meeting in December in Washington, D.C., although his confirmation by the Senate will likely not occur for six months or so. Besides serving on the State Library Commission, Abramson has been active with Missoula Public Library and its foundation. He was named "Volunteer of the Year" in 1995 by Missoula Public Library. NCLIS is

an independent commission which studies and analyzes the nation's library and information needs and reports to the White House and Congress. It is chaired by Jean Simon of Illinois.

"Infomobile" for Yellowstone County: Parmly Billings director Bill Cochran has announced that the library will be purchasing a high-tech "library-on-wheels" to serve the Billings Heights and eastern Yellowstone County areas. The unit will stock books, compact discs, and videos, and will have telecommunications ties to the main library collection as well as to those of three high school libraries. According to news reports the price of the unit is $109,490, and it will cost about $35,130 to operate annually. Cochran indicated that this approach is less expensive than operating satellite libraries, and that he expected to announce scheduled infomobile locations in December.

Academic & Special Librarians Retreat: MLA's academic and special librarians attended this year's annual retreat at Chico Hot Springs. JoAn Segal, a library consultant from Colorado, and current president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, offered two sessions: "Diagnosing Information Needs," and "Maintaining Service Quality with Changing Technology." Karen Ginter, from the National Library of Medicine, spoke on "New Technologies and the Internet," and Sharon McKay of Ameritech offered demonstrations of the Dynix and Horizon systems.

Beth Furbush, who heads up MLA's Academic and Special Libraries Division, chaired the business meeting. Judy Meadows and Patricia Roberts organized the retreat. State Library Commissioner Mike Schulz attended the entire retreat, and Richard Miller attended the second day. Miller also attended the meeting of the Health Sciences Interest Group which took place during the retreat. This group is busy planning the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association Conference for October 5-9, 1996 at Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish. For more information on the latter, contact Leza Hamby at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory Library in Hamilton; telephone 406-363-9211 or Susan Long, Director of the Kalispell Regional Hospital Medical Library, 406-752-1739.

Montana Center for the Book Update: Bonnie Lambert, Chair of the Montana Center for the Book, lead its monthly meeting Monday, November 20th. Members heard a progress a report on a book of essays coming out in the spring entitled Writing Montana: Literature Under the Big Sky: Twenty-Seven Essays, edited by Rick Newby and Suzanne Hunger. The book will appear in Falcon Press's Christmas catalog. The group also received information from Richard Miller on the Read magazine "Letters About Literature 1996" campaign, and on four states' book awards programs. The latter was offered in response to one member's proposal that Montana consider offering a Montana Book Award every other year. The Center for the Book is sponsoring a series of readings by authors this fall including Bill Bevis, Swain Wolf, and Melissa Kwasny. Contact Richard Miller, State Librarian, 406-444-3116.

Karen C. Driessen has co-authored a book called A Library Manager's Guide to the Physical Processing of Nonprint Materials. According to the book's publisher, Greenwood Publishing Group Inc. Ms. Driessen , and co-author Sheila A. Smyth have made a unique contribution to library management. The book provides practical advice on making wise decisions about the physical processing of nonprint materials, such as video-tapes, computer disks, three-dimensional artifacts, and graphic materials. Drawing on the expertise of librarians around the country, the authors have created an analytical and practical guide for making processing decisions and for carrying out the physical processing of nonprint items. Ms. Driessen is a Professor, Media Librarian, and Acting Director of the Mansfield Library Instructional Media Services at the University of Montana. She has taught courses in Technical Processing and Audio Visual Communication, conducted workshops in media cataloging and processing, authored media reviews, and is immediate Past President of Online Audiovisual Catalogers, Inc.

National News

ALA Offering an Award: ALA members who do not supervise another professional librarian may apply for funds to pay for going to the ALA Annual Conference in New York, NY next July. They must fill out a short form and write a 250 word essay answering the question: "How will attending this ALA Conference contribute to my professional growth?" Winners will receive up to $1,000 for actual expenses. Applications are due **December 31, 1995**. Contact: Luren Dickinson, 419-422-1712.

PLA National Conference

Program, Registration Information Available: Registration information is available for the Public Library Association [PLA] 6th National Conference, "Access for All: The Public Library Promise," scheduled for March 26-30, 1996, in Portland OR. The deadline for final advance registration is February 26, 1996. The conference will feature more than 110 continuing education programs focusing on such topics as buildings, administration, collection management, customer service, the electronic library, Internet, special populations, staffing, trustees/Friends/volunteers and youth services. An author track, more than 250 exhibits, many special exhibits and preconference

programs will be featured. Contact: PLA Office, 800-545-2433x5PLA.

Internet Connections: *A Librarian's Guide to Dial-Up Access and Use*, 2nd edition, is the latest Library and Information Technology Association [LITA] publication. Written by Mary E. Engle, and others, the new edition is designed to provide librarians with information and resources on such online services as Archie, Gopher, WAIS and the World Wide Web, including information on the software needed to access these services. Costs $24 [$21.60 for LITA members]. Contact: ALA Book Order Fulfillment, 800-545-2433.

"Log on at the Library" will be the message for a special day of demonstrations designed to focus national attention on the role of libraries and librarians in providing public access to the information superhighway. Betty J. Turock, president of ALA, urges all school, public and college libraries to take members of the public on a cruise down the information superhighway as part of this day, Tuesday, April 16, 1996, during National Library Week.

She noted that libraries without online connections can ask computer stores, other libraries or community volunteers to stage demonstrations and invite local government officials to see for themselves why their library should be connected. "Nothing is more important to the future of our country than equal access to information for all people," said Turock in announcing the special event. "Our goal is to make sure that every American has access to information online at their school, public and college libraries."

"Log on at the Library" Day will replace the Night of a Thousand Stars/ Great American Read Aloud previously held on Wednesday during National Library Week. Local libraries are free to sponsor local read alouds but ALA will focus its national publicity efforts on "Log on at the Library Day." A free National Library Week tip sheet is available from ALA, Public Information Office, 800-545-2433x5044.

New YALSA Publications Available: Two new publications are available from the Young Adult Library Services Association [YALSA]. Its 1994 list of recommended books for reluctant readers is available in a brochure, "Quick Picks 1995." The list of fiction and nonfiction titles is chosen annually by the YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers committee. It includes titles that will stimulate the interest of reluctant teen readers. The books are chosen for their high appeal in terms of content, format and artwork.

YALSA's "Best Books for Young Adults 1995," a two color brochure, is an annotated list of books published in 1994. The list includes fiction and nonfiction titles that have proven or potential appeal to young adults. Send a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope to the YALSA Office, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Calendar

Dec 6 State Library Commission Meeting - Helena
Dec 8 MLA board Meeting - Helena
Dec 25 Christmas Day [State Holiday]
Jan 1, 96 New Year's Day [State Holiday]
Jan 15, 96 Martin Luther King Day [State Holiday]
Jan 19-25, 96 ALA Midwinter Meeting - San Antonio
Jan 26, 96 Library Services Advisory Council Meeting - Helena
Jan 26-27, 96 Family Literacy Conference in Lewistown [tentative dates]
Feb 1-2, 96 WLN Board Retreat and Meeting
Feb 17-19, 96 Off-Line Retreat - Helena
May 6-7, 96 Library Legislative Day briefings [May 7- Legislative Day] Call 202-628-8410
July 4-10, 96 ALA Annual Conference NY, NY

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